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Vol. I, No. 38.

Wednesday, October 24th, 1945.

Price 10 cts.

VEILED THREAT BY INDONESIANS

BATAVIA, OCT. 23. THE UNRECOGNISED SOEKARNO "GOVERNMENT" YESTERDAY INFORMED LT.-GEN. SIR PHILIP CHRISTISON THAT IT CANNOT GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF 250,000 DUTCH AND EURASIANS IN INDONESIA AND ASSERTED THAT ENDLESS BLOODSHED WOULD RESULT IF MORE DUTCH TROOPS LANDED. DR. SOEKARNO IN A LETTER ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY AIMS AND PRETEXT AGAINST BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICS BY "SUPPORTING AND BUTTERING THE DUTCH AGAINST US."

Batavia, Oct. 23. A British spokesman of the Allied Headquarters said that eleven Dutch officers were killed by a mob in the mountains between Batavia and Bandung while nine Dutch nationals were killed by Indonesian extremists after being removed from Buitenzorg prison camp. Associated Press.

GANGS ACTIVE
Reports from areas in Java outside British-controlled cities indicate that Europeans and Eurasians continue to be rounded up by gangs, said a 23rd British Division spokesman, quoted by the Netherlands News Agency to-night. Reuter.

Dr. Soekarno has arrived in Batavia, he stated that he had been touring the country, and believed that he had succeeded in

calming down the extremists. Associated Press.

SEMARANG DAMPED DOWN
There was comparative quietness in the Dutch island of Java where Gurkha troops were today in full control of Semarang, the third largest city in Java.

The Indonesian Nationalists still hold the mountainous country outside its walls, a Netherlands News Agency despatch from Batavia reported.

Following the agreement between the allied troops, Nationalists and Japanese, the Japanese forces will be entirely withdrawn from Semarang while all Indonesians in the city, except the regular police who are cooperating with the Gurkhas, will lay down their arms.

AMBARAWA FATE UNKNOWN
Gurkha troops have taken over the allied prisoners of war and interned camps in Semarang itself, but news was still awaited of the inmates of the camp of Ambarawa, twenty miles south of the city and other places in that area.

Mystery surrounds the activities of Doctor Soekarno, President of the "Indonesian Republic" who has been absent from Batavia for eighteen days. Doctor Soekarno, Foreign Minister of the Republic Government told Reuter in Batavia to-day that the President is resting up country. It may be a month before he comes back.

This statement was followed by contradictory reports which have been sweeping Batavia for a week to the effect that one, he had been kidnapped and two, that he had gone into the interior in an attempt to check disorders. Reuter.

ADVISER ARRIVES
M. E. D. Denning, chief political adviser to Lord Louis Mountbatten, arrived to-day to investigate the Java political situation.

Some sources said the British advised the Dutch not to send troops in large numbers at present. They said the Dutch had complied with British suggestions to demilitarize Netherlands colonies.

BATAVIA, OCT. 23.
BRIGADIER ROBIN PAPER, AMERICAN LIAISON OFFICER ATTACHED TO THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, ARRIVED HERE TO-DAY FOR A FIRST LOOK INTO THE TENSE POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAVA.

He emphasized that he was merely an observer declaring that the United States had no political interests in Indonesia and that no American troops would be sent here.

Mr. William Foote, American Consul-General before the Japanese invasion, arrived in Batavia yesterday, and began a round of interviews both with the Dutch and the Indonesian leaders. Associated Press.

LINER SAILS
The giant Dutch liner "New Amsterdam" is sailing for the Netherlands Indies to-morrow with a large number of Dutch troops on board. Associated Press.

Good News For R.A.F.

London, Oct. 23. Wing-Commander John Strachey, during the debate on demobilization, disclosed that a revised R.A.F. programme would permit not Group 28 to be out by June next but up to Group 32. This change would tax the resources of the R.A.F. to the utmost. Reuter.

Hong Kong Escaped By Few Days

WASHINGTON, OCT. 23. LT.-GEN. ALBERT C. WEDEMEYER TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE TO-DAY THAT JAPAN SURRENDERED JUST IN TIME TO HEAD OFF A CHINESE OFFENSIVE DRIVING TO THE COAST TO LIBERATE CANTON AND HONG KONG.

He said the jump-off was set for August 18. "We hoped to take these objectives by October 15," he said. The military force included 20 divisions of American-trained Chinese-commanded troops, supported by the 10th and 14th air forces and United States navy air elements.

Wedemeyer said he had found Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek friendly and cooperative. "I think he is straightforward and sincere in his desire to help his people," the general said.

He said the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang are planning a trip to the United States. He said he didn't blame Major-General Chenmiao for not liking to be superseded in command when the Chinese theatre air commander. Associated Press.

Protest To Russia

London, Oct. 23. A Foreign Office spokesman detailed the British and the United States protest to Russia against the Soviet's proposed trade pact with Rumania and Bulgaria, as well as Hungary.

The basis of the protest, according to the spokesman, was that it was improper for one member of the Allied Control Commission to negotiate pacts with the enemy even before the peace treaties were worked out.

It is understood that the Bulgarian and Rumanian pacts were less drastic than that of Hungary which would give Russia fifty per cent control of all vital parts of Hungarian economy. Associated Press.

U.S. ATTITUDE
Washington, Oct. 23. The United States State Department announced that the United States has made it clear to Russia and Britain that all former Axis states are the concern and responsibility of the Big Three and that the conclusion of any long term economic agreement should be considered by the Big Three. Reuter.

U.S. Navy Head Wants No Merger

WASHINGTON, OCT. 23. THE NAVY SECRETARY, MR. JAMES FORRESTAL, TOLD THE SENATE MILITARY COMMITTEE THAT THE PROPOSED MERGER OF THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS IS REVOLUTIONARY AND UNSOUND. THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY OFFERED AS A SUBSTITUTE THE POST-WAR PLAN OF THE ARMED FORCES, CALLING FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS AND THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

The President would preside over the Council which would comprise the Secretaries of State for War, the Navy and the Chairman of the proposed National Security Resources Board.

The backers of the merger count on President Truman throwing his weight behind the

idea. Mr. Forrestal said that he favoured a unified leadership but argued that a merger would concentrate too much on one Secretary. He said that under such plan the Navy would not have been able to wage its effective Pacific campaign. Associated Press.

Finance Expert's Hint To U.S.

NEW YORK, OCT. 23. THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, IN A BULLETIN ENTITLED "THE POUND STERLING AND THE STERLING AREA AFTER WORLD WAR NO. 2" STATES THAT IF NO ADEQUATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS GRANTED TO BRITAIN, SHE WILL BE COMPELLED TO ADOPT THE BEST SUITED MEASURE FOR HER OWN NEEDS.

THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURES WOULD BE: ONE, REFUSAL TO RATIFY THE BRETON-WOODS AGREEMENTS; TWO, DEVALUATION OF THE POUND STERLING; THREE, CONTINUING AND EVEN WIDENING THE STERLING AREAS; AND RAISING WALLS AROUND IT BY ENACTING MORE RIGID FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS.

It is generally believed that if adequate financial assistance is granted by the United States during the next two to three years, Britain will be able gradually to extricate herself from her difficult post-war position and adopt the principles embodied in the Bretton-Woods Agreement.

Discussing the future international value of the Pound sterling, the bulletin states: "The Pound Sterling is the key currency of the Sterling area and hence its international value is of considerable importance as it determines the gold or dollar value of currencies of the sterling bloc countries."

The pound will exercise a very strong influence on the currencies of some western European countries and of other countries which have recently concluded financial agreements with Britain.

Changes in international values of the Pound Sterling always reflected in the movement of the Canadian Dollar.

FAIR-REACHING EFFECT.
Action by the British Government concerning the international value of the Pound is

Scattered Skirmishes In N. China

SHANGHAI, OCT. 23. BRAWLING NORTH CHINA IS NO NEARER A SOLUTION OF ITS MANY POLITICAL-MILITARY PROBLEMS THAN FOUR WEEKS AGO.

Chinese government troops have been landed in Tientsin, outskirts of Peking and in a small island off Chefoo, via American air naval transports. United States Marines were landed in those areas on September 30.

There has been some gun-firing in scattered sectors from Tientsin to the railway linking Peking and Tientsin.

A marine gasoline train was fired upon three nights ago, one coach being riddled with bullets from rapid-fire guns.

Chinese Communists are strongly placed at Chefoo where there could be fighting if the Central Government decided to send troops to that area.

The Communists have told the American Naval officers at Chefoo that they did not object to American troops in China so long as they did not help the nationalists. Moving bands have kept Shantung traffic at a standstill. The latest estimate of the rail traffic between Shanghai and North China is that it will not open before Spring. Associated Press.

Singapore Strike

SINGAPORE, OCT. 23. BRITISH TROOPS AND JAPANESE PRISONERS WORKED ON SINGAPORE'S WHARVES DURING MONDAY UNLOADING SHIPS AS THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE DOCK WORKERS CONTINUED THEIR UNAUTHORIZED STRIKE.

Representatives of 72 Singapore Labour Unions held a meeting in which they presented a series of demands to the British Military Administration, including the release of ten Union members who were arrested by the police and an apology from the policeman who allegedly mistreated the Union President. Associated Press.

PARIS, OCT. 23. MR. BIRLA, THE INDIAN EMPLOYERS' DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE TO-DAY CALLED UPON THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FORTY-FIVE MEMBER STATES OF THE I.L.O. TO RECOGNISE "THAT THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE OF ASIATIC COUNTRIES IS THE FOUNDATION OF FUTURE PLANNING OF THE WORLD AS THIS ALONE THE SOLID STRUCTURE OF WORLD PEACE AND PROSPERITY CAN BE BUILT."

"We must choose," he said, "between a peaceful world which will bestow not only political peace, but economic peace on all."

Whilst recognising the gravity of the situation facing Europe Mr. Birla stressed the need of giving greater attention than was being done to the complex problem of the Asiatic countries where the after-effects of the war had not been less serious.

China, Burma and Malaya had undergone the ravages of war to such an extent that their already enfeebled economy had been simply shattered.

In India too the strain of war on her economy had been considerable, as had been amply proved by the Bengal famine.

Mr. Birla said: "India wants to improve her standard of living. This is essential for equator and poverty will always remain a danger to peace and prosperity."

He saw, however, no hope of a bright future for India and for the raising of living of her people till the question of her foreign assets was satisfactorily solved and capital goods were made available for her industrialization.

BLOCKED ASSETS
Mr. Birla protested against the blocking by Britain of one thousand million Sterling of India's assets accumulated during the war. The Empire dollar-pool should be dissolved, he said. Foreign exchange that had accrued to India and would accrue to her hereafter should be allocated to India.

If these assets were realised India would be able to purchase more freely in the world markets and thus contribute appreciably towards the expansion of world trade and prosperity.

Comparing the pace of industrialisation in Canada and Australia with India, Mr. Birla said, "India's vast potential resources have remained untapped."

Asahi Story Of Plot Against Tojo

TOKYO, OCT. 23. THE NEWSPAPER "ASAHI" DISCLOSED TO-DAY THAT EX-PREMIER TOJO HAD OUTBLUFFED SENIOR STATESMEN AND ROYAL PRINCES WHO HAD PLOTTED HIS DOWNFALL.

THE PAPER SAID THAT TOJO, IN THE STORMY AUGUST, 1943, SESSION HAD BLOCKED THEIR PLAN TO FORCE HIS RESIGNATION AND ULTIMATELY OUST THE MILITARISTS.

Tojo had threatened to "carry on the war on my own responsibility," the "Asahi" reported, and, according to this paper, the anti-Tojoists lacked the assurance to protest to the Emperor whereupon Tojo himself complained, to Hirohito of the Princes' plot.

Seigo Nakano, Member of the House of Representatives and the anti-Tojo leader, subsequently committed suicide.

Other anti-Tojoists included Princes Takamatsu, Higashikuni Kaya and Konoye, Admiral Okada, Admiral Yonai and Koki Hirota, all ex-Premiers. Associated Press.

Mr. Dalton's Budget

LONDON, OCT. 23. MR. HUGH DALTON IS THIS AFTERNOON TO INTRODUCE HIS FIRST BUDGET TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

It is generally conceded that the new Chancellor of the Exchequer had no room for manoeuvre or drastic tax concessions. The country is still spending thirteen million pounds a day, of which eleven million pounds are absorbed by the fighting and supply services. Reuter.

ARMY RELEASES

London, Oct. 23. Military release dates for other ranks announced by the War Office are as follows: Group 21, November 12-21; Group 22, Nov. 25-December 6; Group 23, Dec. 7-20; Group 24, Dec. 21 and a date to be announced later.

Officers in Group 21 will be released between November 12 and early January. Reuter.

BRITISH NAVAL CASUALTIES

London, Oct. 23. The First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander, has announced that Britain's war-time naval casualties totalled 63,540 men, of which 49,805 were killed and 1,533 are missing. Associated Press.

EMPEROR WORSHIP

TOKYO, OCT. 23. THE EMPEROR SYSTEM BECAME AN ACTIVE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL ISSUE TO-DAY WHEN TWO FLEDGLING PARTIES DEMANDED ITS RETENTION AS PLANKS IN THEIR PLATFORMS.

The preparatory committee of a party seeking reform of old-time political-party elements listed two planks: unqualified defence of the emperor system and a determined fight against both communism and liberalism.

The "Liberal party" vowed to uphold and defend Japan's structure, including the Emperor institution. Associated Press.

OH YEAH!
Prince Fumimaro Konoye, in a statement to-day, said: "Emperor Hirohito has appointed us to secure stronger Parliament, capable of being a guiding influence in Japan's political affairs."

The Prince said that the increased power of the Diet will be a safeguard against the "future misuse of the Constitution." Associated Press.

Daladier Dizzy

Paris, Oct. 23. Herewith the record of the last twenty-four hours in the electoral life of Edouard Daladier. The sixty-one year-old Radical leader and Prime Minister of France at the time of Munich and the outbreak of war was declared defeated late last night.

It was later officially stated, however that he had been elected.

A further official statement later said that this was a mistake but an official announcement shortly afterwards to-day declared that he had been elected.

It was officially stated to-night, again, that he had been defeated.

There the matters remain for the moment. Daladier had a stormy electoral campaign in his home department of Vaucluse where there was much throwing of tomatoes and rotten eggs. Reuter.

PHILIPPINE FUNDS FREED

Washington, Oct. 23. A bill freeing U.S.\$71,000,000 in Philippine funds frozen in the United States was approved unanimously to-day by the House ways and means committee. The measure, already approved by the Senate, is expected to come before the House in a few days. Resident Commissioner Carlos Romulo said the Philippines' need of the funds is "most urgent." Associated Press.

Washington, Oct. 23. President Truman has nominated Mr. Arthur W. MacArthur to be United States Minister to New Zealand. Associated Press.

NOTICE

During the temporary absence of our Permanent Director Mr. D. O. Russell, we have appointed Mr. F. MEYER to be a Director of our firm.

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Percy Smith, Seth & Fleming,
2nd floor, Windsor House,
Telephone 20700
Hongkong, 23rd October, 1945.

NOTICE

The whereabouts are required of a well-known painting "BOY AND TOP," the property of Mr. Ernest Humphreys, which has been removed from his flat. Will any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of this painting communicate with the undersigned.

WILKINSON & GRIST.

IMMOBILISATION OF UNATTENDED MOTOR VEHICLES.

All drivers of motor vehicles are advised to immobilise their vehicles when leaving them unattended.

(Sd. C. H. SANBOM,
Col.,
C. A. (Police))

THE NEW STANDARD COMPANY

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BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION, HONGKONG

RE CUSTODIAN PROCLAMATION, 1945
CLAIMS FOR CARGO REMAINING IN GODOWN

Bankers, merchants and others who have any interest in cargo on storage in godowns now under my control may forward schedules (in duplicate) stating:—

1. Name of claimant, address and telephone number.
2. Situation of godown and name and address of owner or lessee.
3. Interest claimed (sole or part owner, Banker's lien, etc.).
4. Documents of title that can be produced, on a statement of the manner in which it is proposed to prove interest.
5. Godown Lot number: ex Steamer.....; Marks and Nos.: Number and description of packages and contents: Any other information likely to assist in tracing the cargo.
6. Amounts received from Japanese Authorities on account of such cargo.

A separate schedule should be forwarded for Godowns in (a) West Point & Kennedy Town Area, (b) the rest of Hong Kong Island, (c) Kowloon Wharf, (d) Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's properties, (e) elsewhere.

It will be appreciated that with the small staff at my disposal inspection of godowns by the public to locate cargo cannot be allowed for the time being, but every endeavour will be made to locate cargo claimed, and at a later date I may be able to allocate supervisors to accompany claimants to make inspection.

B. A. WICKERSON,
Acting Custodian of Property,
Hong Kong,
23rd October, 1945.

THE CHINA MAIL

Registered Offices:
Windsor House
1st floor
Des Voeux Road, C.
Hong Kong.

Telephones: 32312, 24354 & 33223

Managing Editor: W. J. Keates.

Subscription Rates:

3 months H.K.\$ 9.00
6 months H.K.\$ 18.00
One year H.K.\$ 36.00

RICE SUBSIDY

Official figures released yesterday reveal that Government's commendable effort to keep down the living costs of the mass of the Chinese population of this Colony involves a subsidy far in excess of that commonly believed. Exact totals are difficult to compute, but it is safe to say that the daily cost of supplying rice to the public at 20 cents a catty is in the neighbourhood of \$140,000 a day or \$4,000,000 a month. Even in these days of monetary stringency that seems an enormous figure, for on the basis of a Chinese population of approximately half a million, it amounts to nothing less than a donation to every Chinese man, woman and child in the Colony of \$8 per head per month. How long it is possible to go on at this rate must be a matter very much in the minds of the Executive. It represents social service financing on a scale that obviously cannot be maintained indefinitely. Only the complex circumstances of the moment could possibly justify it. For that reason, we should feel far happier about looking at the spectacle in a sort of dazed admiration if there were more assurance that Government's extreme generosity was not being seriously abused. Four million dollars a month in order that the poor may eat can be contemplated with relative equanimity. If, on the other hand, any appreciable proportion of that formidable total is being diverted into the pockets of black market operators, it is a matter demanding strictest investigation and speedy remedy. The evidence appears to be overwhelming. Good rice, for some reason or other, cannot be obtained from the official rice retailers. What they have to offer is uniformly of poor grade. The question, therefore, revolves on a simple enough point, is the rice in the possession of Government's agents, all of the same poor quality? If it is, there is little more to be said. The good quality black market rice that sells freely at 60 cents a catty—against the law—is smuggled in to meet an understandable demand. Such an explanation, however, appears altogether too easy. Somewhere, there is a nigger in the woodpile, one that urgently wants digging out. Since, practically, it would be disastrous to call an end to the subsidy at this juncture, the more necessary it is to ensure that we get full value for it.

Film Premieres

ALL NEW FILMS ARRIVING IN HONG KONG ARE TO HAVE THEIR PREMIERE AT THE CHINA FLEET CLUB THEATRE, BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE R.N. FILM CENTRE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY.

One of the most important, the technical production of "Hector" with Laurence Olivier in the leading role, will be arriving in Hong Kong in a few days. This film has broken all London records and is still showing after 12 months.

It is intended to show films twice daily at the China Fleet Club Theatre as from Sunday and there will be a change of programme twice a week.

Next week's attractions are "Hollywood Canteen" and "The Man from Music Mountain," starring Roy Rogers, "The Singing Cowboy."

The Fleet Club theatre is available for ships' concerts or entertainments on application to the Manager.

For unlawful possession of two sacks of cement, Cheung Nin, was fined \$100 or four weeks' simple imprisonment by Mr. C. Y. Kwai at the Summary Military Court yesterday.

Accused was seen by Lt. Col. Palmer, of the Royal Marines, in Vanchai Gap carrying the cement from a house under construction.

Washington, Oct. 23. The War Department has disclosed that the two-million-dollar loss of the release of Army personnel. Associated Press.

The Banner Of Doom In Straits Of Malacca

REMARKABLE OFFICIAL STORY OF THE EXPLOITS OF THE EAST INDIES FLEET IN THE LAST YEAR OF THE WAR.

It was late in November 1944 that the British Eastern Fleet, back again at its Ceylon base after those bleak few months of absence from East Africa, was divided into two separate units, the more effectively to launch an all-out offensive against Japan and its co-prosperity sphere in South East Asia.

The sinking of the Tirpitz and Scharnhorst had so restored the balance of sea power in Europe that many major warships were now available for the Far East. There were some long standing injuries to soothe. Men of the Royal Navy had never forgotten the sinking of the Prince of Wales and Repulse or the capture of Singapore.

One of these units, to be known as the British Pacific Fleet, was under Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser. It took its place alongside the great American Fleets, which were driving a steel wedge towards the heart of Japan itself, a thrust between the armoured belt of the enemy's gunned islands. The other was commanded by Admiral Sir Arthur Power and was known as the British East Indies Fleet. It assumed virtual control of the waters of the East Indies and the Indian Ocean, an area of roughly ten times the size of the North Sea. Between these powerful forces, to which the R.A.F. added its considerable weight, the Japanese in the plundered lands of Malaya, Siam and the Netherlands East Indies were caught as relentlessly as any nut between the crackers.

The deployment of the East Indies Fleet was varied in the extreme. At regular intervals a task force of battleships and other heavy units including aircraft carriers would roam the placid waters to the South of Sumatra and Java or to the west of the Kra Isthmus, thousands of miles from base, having a trail of destruction in the coastal area, among the port installations, the radar stations, the barracks, oil refineries and airfields. In January this year the heaviest attack was mounted against the important oil refinery at Palembang, and so to say, in passing, British fighter-bombers destroyed 55 enemy planes and damaged 25 more. But these were only the more spectacular episodes which by their size and daring and from the various famous ships involved, made the world's headlines. During the grim sodden campaign in Burma as the Army ground down Japanese opposition and finally flung back the enemy into the jungle to die of disease, the smaller ships of the Fleet had been constantly in action.

They fought a battle that was even unlike anything that had gone before in this fantastic second world war. It was no uncommon thing for the warships to steam up to more than 20 miles from the sea to blast out Japanese gun emplacements which the Army could not reach satisfactorily. The stories are told of the destroyer that made fast to a tree while it lobbed shells into a few hundred yards away; of two Indian sloops that fired 3,700 rounds without stopping into a green, impenetrable wall of foliage behind which a Japanese garrison was sheltering. The creeks were a narrow that the ships were unable to turn. They steamed full astern when they had finished.

In this world back-water jungle combat, coastal forces had a new function; entirely different to that in the now legendary skirmishes of the English channel and the North Sea. Those were gun fights at high speed, stories which tingled the mind. In the steamy channels of Burma there was none of the clean thrill of speed, of the assassin's warfare of silence broken only by the sharp sudden chatter of an automatic weapon or the smack of a light shell in the swamp; the warfare of the hair trigger.

The M.L.T.s which every night sailed noiselessly along the creeks would lie in wait, disguised under bushes, for the river craft, filled with Japanese, trying to carry reinforcements and supplies to their forces isolated in another part of the jungle. When the rangers opened fire, the whole river side would erupt in flame and splinters on the water and burning debris blown on the branches of trees would indicate the Navy had struck again.

In the assaults on Akyab and Ramree and for the sloping offensive of the Arakan, battleships, cruisers, destroyers and small craft gave the Army the closest support in the history of combined operations. As an example, the Navy's guns from four to 16-inch had plastered the Japanese ashore with 23,000 shells in little over two months. In May the seaborne assault on Rangoon was successfully made with ninety per cent of the assault force comprising ships and landing craft which were veterans of the North African and European combined operations.

And they landed British and Indian troops without casualty. During the last twelve months of the Japanese war the only stretch of water out of the control of the British—East Indies Fleet was the Malacca strait, strategically the most important waterway in the Far East. But if the Allies could not use it, a great part of the Fleet's work was to make sure the Japanese had a pretty thin time there themselves.

Colonel J. M. T. F. Churchill, D.S.O., M.C., is at present commanding the garrison in Kowloon as well as a Commando Brigade, having taken over temporarily from Brigadier Hardy.

The fleet succeeded to the extent of reducing Japanese shipping in this area to a state of mediocrity; fragile wooden craft of a score tons or so, which scraped the very benches as they ran up the coast, so afraid were they of the menace of the deeper water. Not that they were much safer close inshore. British pilots and submarines said they burned beautifully. Whole convoys of them carrying petrol, ammunition or food were wiped out remorselessly. A line of rising smoke along the coast was the banner of doom. These facts will explain the somewhat meagre tonnage of ships sunk by British submarines in the East Indies this last year; only 30,000. But it represents the 237 light craft which were destroyed. There was nothing bigger to hit. The well-equipped ships of Japan's pre-war merchant fleet that had risked themselves in these waters were a line of melancholy wrecks on the bottom, and there was nothing to replace them either from stock or from the building lines. They were being sunk too quickly in the other ocean by the Americans.

The last challenge to the British blockade of the Malacca Strait was made by a Nachi class cruiser later in May. British submarines

saw it and called out the battle fleet and after a macabre fight at midnight, illuminated by tropical lightning, destroyers sent it to the bottom. Tactical purists afterwards called it the "perfect destroyer action."

The last months of the war saw the appearance as a last force of the Kamikaze Corps against the East Indies Fleet. An attack was made on a convoy of minesweepers and escorts off the Kra Isthmus and one minesweeper was damaged. Several planes were destroyed. The cruiser Sussex shot one down almost off her gunwale.

Steaming to launch the biggest air attack so far, the Prime Minister's broadcast of the end of the war, halted a formidable carrier force somewhere off the Andamans. It was rather like letting fly a straight left and hearing the stroke of the bell at the same time.

A week or so later the Fleet went down to listen, coldly, to peace talks by the Japanese, and on board the Sussex the war-stained, weeping Itagaki began the preliminaries, which ended in formal surrender in the Municipal Buildings at Singapore.

As a postscript to the story of the senior Japanese Officer who was asked to explain the presence of a large heap of decaying rubber somewhere near the wharf at Singapore. Two years ago, he said, Tokyo gave the order it had to be delivered in Japan where it was urgently needed. Ten ships tried to implement the order. Not one survived. "You are looking, gentlemen," he said, "at the most expensive heap of rubber in the world."

General de Gaulle's Signal Triumph

PARIS, OCT. 23. THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION IN NINE YEARS HAS PLACED ALMOST AN UNQUALIFIED STAMP OF APPROVAL OF GENERAL DE GAULLE'S PLANS FOR THE FOURTH REPUBLIC ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION DRAFTED BY THE PEOPLES' CHOSEN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE ELECTION HAS DECIDED: ONE, THAT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DESIGNATED AT YESTERDAY'S POLLING SHOULD DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO RE-BUILD THE GOVERNMENT ON THE 1885 DOCUMENT WHICH WAS THE FOUNDATION OF THE THIRD REPUBLIC.

Two, that Executive power be vested in the Provisional Government during the seven months of the Assembly sitting instead of the Assembly itself. With more than half the ballots counted the issue has been carried by a majority of 96 per cent out of eleven million votes and the second proposition by a 65 per cent majority.

The question of writing the new Constitution is supported by all parties but the communists, aided by radical-socialists, have opposed General De Gaulle on the interim government issue.

The election saw the emergence of the socially-inclined resistance born out of the popular republican movement under the leadership of Foreign Minister Georges Bidault who is considered close to General De Gaulle.

The Popular Republicans have won easily 134 seats in the Assembly which will have 622 members from France and 64 from the Colonies. Two branches of socialists have merged and have clinched 139 seats and the communists are assured of 151 seats. The vote is expected to reach 25 million.—Associated Press.

NEW S.E.A.C. AIR CHIEF

The new Air Commander-in-Chief, South-East Asia, in place of the late Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, is Air Marshal Sir Keith Park, who has been Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Middle East Command, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, since January 1944.

In March, 1940, he became Air Officer Commanding, No. 11 Group, Fighter Command, which bore the brunt of the fighting in the Battle of Britain.

He was born in 1892 at Thames, New Zealand, and was educated in New Zealand. He served with the New Zealand forces in Gallipoli before transferring to the Royal Flying Corps in 1917.

"BENNY" PROULX DECORATED

Lt. Cmdr. B. A. Proulx, of the Royal Canadian Navy, who fought through the attack on Hong Kong as a member of the H.K. Naval Volunteer Force and succeeded in escaping from the Colony after the Japanese occupation, has been decorated by both the Canadian and British authorities for his subsequent work in the R.C.N. He has written a book on his escape from Hong Kong.

Colonel J. M. T. F. Churchill, D.S.O., M.C., is at present commanding the garrison in Kowloon as well as a Commando Brigade, having taken over temporarily from Brigadier Hardy.

Stalin Rumour

London, Oct. 23. Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, in response to a question, said today that he had "no information to support" rumours that Josef Stalin is gravely ill. Gromyko is attending the United Nations executive committee meeting here.—Associated Press.

H.K. War Graves Statement

Sir,—Since the arrival of the Military Forces in Hong Kong enquiries have been received regarding the future of the many graves, both Service and Civilian, which are located all over the Island and Mainland.

So far the following action has been taken by this H.Q. 1. A notice was put in all papers calling for information on this matter and many letters have been received. In addition, fairly accurate and complete plans and nominal rolls have been obtained of graves at Stanley, Bowen Road Hospital and Argyle Street. 2. South East Asia Command has been urgently requested to send to Hong Kong as soon as possible a Graves Registration Unit. On arrival this unit will begin a systematic search of the whole area. They will endeavour to identify all graves found, take photographs, erect temporary crosses and as far as possible make a complete list of the graves of all Allied Services, men and women, who were killed in the battle or died subsequently.

When this unit has done everything possible, a decision will be made regarding the future of these graves and in all probability it will be decided that a suitable site or sites will be purchased, and central War Cemeteries formed, as is being done in all countries where the Allies have fought in this war. This work is carried out by a Graves Concentration Unit in conjunction with the Imperial War Graves Commission who are ultimately responsible for the upkeep of these cemeteries.

It should be realised that although there have been less casualties in this war than the last, the work of these units has been made far harder by the fact that the fighting has taken place over a much more widespread area, and at considerable speed with the consequent difficulty of finding and marking graves. This was particularly emphasised in Burma where the fighting took place in very thick jungle covering the Monsoons over vast areas. Search parties are still out there now looking for the graves of men who were killed over two years ago.

In the meantime, as much information regarding war graves as possible should be sent to this H.Q. which will speed up the work of the Graves Registration Unit on their arrival in the Colony. This information should be addressed to Capt. Tietjen of this H.Q.

C. C. RIDDELL,
Major, D.A.A.G.,
H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong.

RAPWI'S WORK

An official statement from the South East Asia Command states: "By October 19th the R.A.P.W.I. organisation of South East Asia Command had seen 75,632 former prisoners and internees safely on their way home."

These persons had been assembled and despatched from camps all over South East Asia and some of them came initially from places outside the command such as Shanghai and Manila. After being cleared from their respective territories the liberated prisoners are assembled in transit camps in Singapore or Rangoon (the two clearing centres of the command) and are thence repatriated to India, Australia or Great Britain.

French Indo-China, Sumatra, Burma and the Andamans have been entirely cleared of British Empire nationals while only 337 remain in Java where the political situation has delayed the scheme, 79 in Siam, and 680 Indians in Malaya. Hong Kong still has 62 British and 340 Indians beside 370 other nationalities unaccounted for.

In several of these territories a great number of French and Dutch remains but their future is complicated by the political disorder in French Indo-China and the Netherlands East Indies where they were scheduled for initial evacuation.

E. R. COULSON ON WAY TO VANCOUVER.

Mr. E. R. Coulson, of the Hong Kong Dairy Farm & Cold Storage Co., recently passed through Manila en route to Vancouver, B.C. after having been, throughout the war, in a Japanese Prison Camp near Tokyo. He was there on a forced labour draft in an iron foundry.

Lt. Cmdr. Victor Glover, of the Royal Canadian Navy, was in San Francisco last April on a visit to his family. He was, for more than two years, stationed in Iceland with the R.C.N.

MORE JAPS ROUNDED-UP

THIRTY-ONE JAPANESE GENDARMES HAD A RUN DOWN ON THE DOUBLE YESTERDAY FROM SHAMSHUI PRISONERS-OF-WAR CAMP TO THE POLICE PIER, KOWLOON, WHERE THEY WERE EMARKED EN ROUTE TO STANLEY PRISON.

The contingent comprised another group against whom sufficient evidence has been drawn up on maltreatment charges to warrant this procedure. The Commandos provided escort.

A gradual weeding-out is taking place at Shamshui, where Japanese civilian internees of questionable status have also been transferred from Whiffeld Barracks pending enquiries.

JAP CAUGHT IN RAID

TWO CHINESE GIRLS AND A JAPANESE WERE ARRESTED ON MONDAY AS A RESULT OF A RAID BY THE POLICE ON NO. 2, MOSQUE STREET, UPPER LEVELS.

The girls were alleged to have concealed the Japanese on the premises ever since the British took over the island. It was understood that the girls, Yip Sau-ying, 19 and Yau Wai-tuen, 17, will be brought before the Summary Military Court.

JAP CAUGHT AFTER THREE DAYS

A Japanese civilian escapee from Whiffeld Barracks was taken into custody by Commandos at Sheungshui. In the New Territories after being at liberty for three days. Details of the escape and capture are not available.

DIS-CREDITED

Pearl Harbour, Oct. 23. The United States Fleet Headquarters has announced that, effective from November 15th, all war correspondents accredited to the Pacific will assume the status of "civilian" correspondents.—Associated Press.

"Three months' hard labour was imposed on Lai Kwong-wai, at the Summary Military Court yesterday, for stealing \$17 from Mr. Arthur Ryan in Queen's Road Central on Monday.

Churchill 'Mischievous' On Demobilisation

LONDON, Oct. 23. EX-PRIME MINISTER, MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL TO-DAY URGED BRITAIN'S LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO ACCELERATE THE DEMOBILISATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DECLARED: "THE TASK OF HOLDING GERMANY DOWN WILL NOT BE A HARD ONE. IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO HOLD HER UP."

MR. CHURCHILL TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT THE OCCUPATION OF GERMANY AND THE LOW COUNTRIES SHOULD REQUIRE NO MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND TROOPS, WITH THE SAME NUMBER REQUIRED FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ZONE.

Mr. Churchill said that Government figures up to June 30, 1946, proposed a reduction to 1,156,000, but why should time be wasted in reaching that total. At December 31, there would still be 2,343,000 in the Army eight months after the war with Germany had ended—far too many. By energetic methods the Government total should be reached at the end of March, not end of June.

He considered that Air Force personnel should be reduced to 400,000 and not 819,000, which was the present plan up to the December 31.

He was astonished that the figure of 665,000 for the navy on December 31 had been accepted by the Government. He knew no reason why the Navy should exceed pre-war figures of 133,000 men and suggested a working figure of 150,000 should be taken.

BRITAIN'S NEEDS. With a million in the United Kingdom, the ration strength of the army, 400,000 for the Royal Air Force, and 150,000 for the Navy, there was a total of 1,550,000 men, which he said should suffice for Britain's needs in the immediate future. He understood that there would be 3,842,000 men in the forces on December 31, which in his view meant 2,250,000 redundant and surplus and these should not be retained a moment longer than was necessary to bring them home or set them free if already home.

He contended that the target aimed at should be 1,500,000 and that it should be reached earlier. Mr. Churchill said he would be ashamed to have been responsible for the earliest declarations of the

British Government on the subject and even now that they had been markedly improved, he had no hesitation in saying they fell far below what was both possible and necessary.

VOLUNTEER OFFER

Mr. Churchill added that the men in all three forces ought to know new conditions under which they could continue in the services, or could transfer from hostilities only to full-time engagements. He was sure that many if offered the opportunity would wish to remain in the services, but he was assured that no plan had been made for them to continue voluntarily. He had always been a strong supporter of the Bevin Scheme. It must, however, be stated that this scheme was based on the assumption that the Japanese war would continue on a great scale for at least 18 months, after the German surrender.

BEVIN SCHEME

"Patience is a virtue," he said, "but it would be a mistake to insist on a rigid application of the Bevin scheme in the changed circumstances of to-day. I am sure that if the whole position were explained to the Army and substantial payment were forth coming to those who were kept longer than their time, the men would understand and accept the position."

Mr. Churchill added that if the men were given double pay for every extra day they were kept, that would be cheaper than keeping hundreds and hundreds of thousands of men here out of productive work.

The Labour member for Doncaster intervened to ask Mr. Churchill if he was not aware what he was now preaching had been condemned, bell, book, and candle by the men in Burma. Mr. Churchill replied that, however, that might be, he was saying what was now in the interest of the State.

The Royal Air Force, he said, must be maintained on a very large scale, with about 4,000 machines in constant service.

MR. ISAACS REPLIES

Replying for the Government, Mr. George Isaacs, Minister of Labour, said that none of Mr. Churchill's suggestions was new to the Government. Mr. Isaacs considered Mr. Churchill's speech, "most irresponsible and mischievous."

"Whether it was to help them out of the services or to get them out of temper with the present Government, I do not know," Mr. Isaacs added that any modification of the Bevin Scheme which would not destroy its fair basis, would be operated. The Government would not keep anyone in the forces if it were possible to take them out. He begged that criticism should be based on a knowledge of the facts and not on surmise. — Reuter and Associated Press.

IRANIAN PREMIER RESIGNS

Teheran, Oct. 23. Premier Muhsin Sadr who has resigned his position as head of the Iranian Government, but consented to hold the office at the request of the Shah until a new Cabinet is formed.

Sadr has served since June 7, when the Government of Premier Hakkim fell. Earlier to-day, the Iranian Parliament heard the Foreign Minister, Sepahbod, declare that the Allies had agreed to withdraw all troops from Iran by March 2nd, 1946 in accordance with the Tripartite Treaty. — Associated Press.

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U.S. Ship Under Fire

Shanghai, Oct. 22. The United States auxiliary ship "Seize" went into action with machine-guns along the Yangtze River early this morning after being heavily machine-gunned from the shore near Chinkiang, about thirty five miles north-east of Nanking.

The "Seize" suffered neither casualties nor damage. When notified of the incident by the American Authorities, General Tang En-po, Commander-in-chief of the Shanghai-Nanking zone, said that the area was full of Communists and promised to do his utmost to prevent recurrence of the incident. — Reuter.

Arsenal To Build Houses

London, Oct. 22. Woolwich Arsenal may become the greatest factory in Southern England for the manufacture of pre-fabricated housing parts if the plans of the newly-formed Committee of local interests are accepted by the Authorities.

The Mayor of Woolwich, Councilor Chertson, Chairman of the Committee, said: "We are putting forward proposals to get work for Woolwich Arsenal and to save discharges. We do not want it to become partly redundant, as it did after the last war. The Arsenal could play a vital part in the housing drive. Its engineering shops could manufacture all the parts for pre-fabricated houses, which are so much needed to-day." — Reuter.

FOOD CONFERENCE

Quebec, Oct. 23. The Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization was opened yesterday by Australia's representative, Mr. J. G. Crawford, that it would "be a mistake to ignore the possibility of new surpluses" in farm products and that the success or failure of the Conference "may well depend upon whether we can recommend some way to link surpluses with the needs of the undernourished countries."

India's representative suggested that food should be sold at cheap prices to deficient countries without competing in normal markets. — Associated Press.

U.S. NAVAL VISIT TO SINGAPORE

Singapore, Oct. 23. The U.S. battleships "Tennessee" and "California" headed the United States naval squadron which entered Singapore to-day.

These are the first American warships to enter the Singapore waters since the Japanese surrender. — Associated Press.

Officers and men of the British army and navy made elaborate plans for the reception of the American navy and gave them a warm welcome. — Associated Press.

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A REAL CANADIAN CITIZEN

Ottawa, Oct. 23. Establishing a new principle in the history of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the Government introduced in Parliament to-day a Bill to create a real "Canadian citizen," without altering in any way Canadians' old status as British subjects. — Associated Press.

Doughboys Restive

Poplar Bluff, Mo., Oct. 23. A group of American soldiers in the Philippines, describing themselves as "bewildered and bitter," sent a mimeographed letter to a newspaper here asking the public to help them get home.

"We are bewildered," said the letter. "We've accomplished our purpose. Now we want to return to normal life. Many of us came over in cargo vessels; we would surely long to go home in them." — Associated Press.

Shanghai, Oct. 23. Lt.-Gen. George Stratemeyer told a news conference to-day: "We hope to see all Americans (troops) out of China by January 1."

He declared: "The Japanese have played ball with us pretty well. There have been a few disturbances but they are rare." — Associated Press.

Chinwangtao Coal Drive

Shanghai, Oct. 23. Chinese in Northern China are indifferent in the struggle between the Communists and the Nationalists, mainly worrying about the lack of coal as winter approaches.

Mine workers near Chinwangtao are striving vainly to produce sufficient coal for Shanghai and other major cities. Transportation is a vital factor and a possibility is seen that some fifty American Liberty ships might be turned over to the Chinese Government in the near future for water movement of coal and other fuel. — Associated Press.

POISON GAS SHIPS TO BE SCUTTLED

Kiel, Oct. 23. One hundred thousand tons of German poison gas are to be sunk in the deepest part of the Skagerrak—the arm of the North Sea between Denmark and Norway.

The first convoy of four ships carrying gas shells has already left and two more will follow. The ships, being obsolete, will be sunk with their cargoes. — Reuter.

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Throbbing with the Spirit that made the United Nations great!

SEE: The Royal visit to Italy.

Great Invasion Secret of Normandy.

Air Assault on Berlin and Russia's drive from the East.

Hell Fire Corner; fortitude of Doyers and Canadians pay their debt for Dover.

Original D-Day Boys.

Night raids on Germany. Field Marshal Eisenhower's welcome to the King on Inspection of Western Front.

World's largest transport "Hawaii-Mars".

Russia's declaration of war on Japan.

Meeting of Pres. Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill and Marshal Chiang.

Australia's Oaok IXth Div. at total war in Burma and Baffin Papan.

Landing in Palau Island.

General MacArthur in the field.

HEAR: Lord Louis Mountbatten's message.

THINK: To the amazing revelation of superb, hard-fighting achievement.

MIRROPHONIC SOUND SYSTEM—BEST PROTECTION

U.S. STRIKE SITUATION

NEW YORK, OCT. 23.

THE NATION'S STRIKE TO-DAY WAS CUT ALMOST IN HALF. IN SPITE OF THE NEW LOOMING IN TEN CITIES WHERE THERE WAS A WALK-OUT OF GLASS WORKERS.

Some 216,000 coal miners returned to the pits under the orders of their Chief, John Lewis, of the United Mine Workers Union.

The returns and new disputes have left the totally idle in labour disputes at 217,400, men which number is slated to drop another 16,700 during the week with the return of steel-workers laid off because of the coal shortage.

Others still idle include 61,700 Pacific Northwest Lumber Sawmill workers, 2,700 bus drivers, 9,300 cotton and textile employees, 7,000 movie men.

Thirty-thousand West-Coast longshoremen have set October 29 as the strike date in the event of their wage demands not being met. — Associated Press.

ARGENTINE ELECTIONS

Buenos Aires, Oct. 22.

The Argentine Government has expressed its willingness to advance the date of the elections previously set for April 7th, 1946.

The Minister of the Interior, Bartholomeo Descalzo, is reported to be calling in leaders of various political parties to discuss a new date and said that the Army, Navy and Air forces would "guarantee the elections by their presence at the voting places." — Associated Press.

AMERICAN DIVISION GOING HOME

Tokyo, Oct. 23.

The American Division, the only Infantry unit formed overseas, is departing for the United States next month, after service in Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Philippines and occupation in Japan.

Formed in New Caledonia, the division was originally from National Guard Units. — Associated Press.

Tokyo, Oct. 23.

The newspaper "Asahi" has reported that five schools at Morioka, 322 miles north-east of Tokyo, have been suspended because of food shortage, with pupils, including primary graders, working to increase the foodstuffs production. — Associated Press.

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NOTICE

A meeting of the Officers' Chris-
tian Union will be held on Friday,
October 26th, in the Gloucester
Hotel. All wishing to be present
please gather in the dining-room
of the Officers' Club, Gloucester
Hotel, about 4.15 p.m.

POST OFFICE NOTICE

POSTAGE RATES

Destination.	Letter Rate.	Postcards.	Printed Matter.
Hongkong, Kowloon and the New Territories.	5 cents for each ounce or part of an ounce.	2 cents.	2 cents for each two ounces or part of two ounces.
China and Macao.	8 cents for each ounce or part of an ounce.	4 cents.	5 cents for each two ounces or part of two ounces.
United Kingdom, the British Empire, British possessions, protectorates and mandated territories, Egypt and the Sudan.	20 cents for the first ounce and 10 cents for each additional ounce or part of an ounce.	10 cents.	5 cents for each two ounces or part of two ounces.
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United Kingdom, Europe, Philippines, North, Central and South America.	London. Leyte.			
India, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Middle and Near East and Africa.	Calcutta & Bombay. Calcutta.	One Dollar for each half ounce.	50 cents.	Not accepted, except in closed cover at letter rate.
Australia, New Zealand and South Western Pacific.	Brisbane & Sydney. Sydney.			

Insurance and Parcel Post not available for the present.
All previous postage rate notices are cancelled.

DOCK STRIKE THREATS

LONDON, OCT. 23.—UNOFFICIAL LEADERS OF BRITAIN'S DOCK STRIKE THREATENED THE GOVERNMENT TO-DAY WITH A GENERAL STRIKE AS THE COUNTRY'S MOST CRITICAL DOCK WALK-OUT IN 20 YEARS SPREAD TO NEW PIERS.

The threat followed the bringing of 3,100 more soldiers into the dock area to unload critically needed food supplies. The reinforcements brought the total of soldiers working on the docks to 10,000.

Some 1,800 more dockers joined the 7,000 already on strike in the London area, bringing the total throughout the country to nearly 50,000 men.

A large crowd of dockers, meeting in London this morning, heard their leader declare: "There can be no question of this strike continuing for six, twelve or fifteen weeks. You are anxious to resume work, and I am anxious to start, too, myself, but we are only prepared to return on our own terms. I am warning the Government that if they do not face up to this national dock crisis within a month, there will be linked to it a great national crisis—and a worse strike than in 1926."—Reuter and Associated Press.

CAMP FOR JAPS IN PEIPING

Peiping, Oct. 23.—Japanese civilians to-day began moving to a concentration point in the Japanese-built suburb "New Peiping" under the orders of Chinese Gen. Sun Lien-chung. Within a week, all Japanese civilians in the western section estimated at 10,000, must move outside the city gates. About 100,000 others will be moved out later.—Associated Press.

RESCUE PARTY'S CASUALTIES

Tokyo, Oct. 23.—The Japanese War Ministry has reported that four members of the Japanese rescue party are dead and twenty two are missing in their hunt for an American plane which was forced down by a typhoon in the Formosan mountains on Oct. 1st.—Associated Press.

"WERE WOLF" CAUGHT

Lüneburg, Germany, Oct. 23.—Hans Colling, organizer of the abortive Werewolf movement and Nazi leader of the Hitler Youth Movement has been captured on a farm near Lüneburg, where he was working as a labourer.—Associated Press.

LEGATION STONED IN CARACAS

Excitement In Venezuela

CARACAS, OCT. 23.—THIS REVOLUTION-SCARRED VENEZUELA CAPITAL TO-DAY SEEKING A FEW ISOLATED SNIPERS WHO STILL ARE OPPOSING THE NEW OFFICER-LED GOVERNMENT, WHICH ANNOUNCED "AT NOON FROM ANY PART OF VENEZUELA." A CROWD GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE MEXICAN EMBASSY AND ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE DIEGO NULTE SAID, EX-GOVERNOR OF VENEZUELA'S CENTRAL DISTRICT, WHO FOUND REFUGE IN THE EMBASSY.

The Mexican charge d'affaire sent the crowd away by telling them riflemen were concealed in the balconies.

Later the crowd stoned the Dominican Legation and attempted to seize cars belonging to a member of the Colombian Embassy but were dissuaded. A small crowd forced the Haiti charge d'affaires to place a white flag atop his car.—Associated Press.

SEEKS REFUGE

Senora Medina, wife of the deposed President has sought refuge in the British Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela.

With her is Senor Latret, former Health Minister, and his wife.

President Medina, who was captured by revolutionaries during the recent revolution, has been transferred to the "model prison" in Caracas. Reuter.

CARACAS, OCT. 23.—A NEW CABINET, ADAPTED TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS, HAS TAKEN THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT OF OIL-RICH VENEZUELA UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA WHICH STAMPED OUT ALL IMPERIALIST RESISTANCE, WITH ITS COUP D'ETAT, IN A TUMULTUOUS WEEK-END OF ARMED CONFLICT.

Romula Betancourt, former newspaper columnist, assumed the dual role of President and Minister of the Interior, with a pledge that his government assumed power only to provide Venezuela with "free and direct universal suffrage by secret ballot."

He promised the nation that he would take an energetic part in preserving hemispheric unity.

Betancourt, former Communist, who later renounced his party, installed his Cabinet dominated by the Democratic Action Party which is considered left of centre. The last major opposition has ended.—Associated Press.

Pearl Harbour Enquiry

WASHINGTON, OCT. 23.—A CONTROVERSY REVOLVED IN CONGRESS TO-DAY AROUND THE DATE WHEN THE NEWLY NAMED COMMITTEE SHOULD REPORT ON THE PEARL HARBOR DISASTER OF DECEMBER 7, 1941.

Legislation naming the committee designated January 3, 1946, but administration leaders are preparing to ask for extension because it is contended that it would be impossible to make a fair report by such an early deadline.

Senate leaders said they believed the membership is willing but the idea is unpopular in the house, where Republicans refer to further delays as "stalling."—Associated Press.

Asahi Outspoken

Tokyo, Oct. 23.—The influential newspaper "Asahi" to-day alleged that the break-up of the Zaibatsu family monopoly system of economic control, as announced by the Finance Ministry, was "merely a reorganization in disguise" and an attempt to evade war responsibility.

The newspaper declared that Zaibatsu did "their utmost to contribute to Japan's war effort" and "that no one can rest assured that there is no danger of their embarking again in new war ventures at some opportune moment in the future."—Associated Press.

AN END TO PRIVILEGE

Salt Lake City, Oct. 23.—Mr. C. Borendson, New Zealand's representative to the United States, told the English-speaking Union that "if the white man does not carry his burden in the Pacific, another race will carry his coffin. Fifteen million or so members of the white race cannot hope to maintain a privileged position among a billion people of other races. They cannot do it because it is not right," he concluded.—Associated Press.

BRADMAN'S DECISION

Adelaide, Oct. 23.—Cricket officials here to-day state that Don Bradman has definitely decided not to play in any more test matches.—Reuter.

FRANCO'S HUMOUR

MADRID, OCT. 23.—GENERALISSIMO FRANCISCO FRANCO HAS ISSUED DECREES GRANTING SPANISH FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION PROVIDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IF IT IS "NOT AGAINST THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE STATE."

Illegal entry into homes is prohibited except in "exceptional cases."

The decree also establishes freedom of residence in national territory, right to work, freedom of enterprise and right to property.

France has stipulated, however, that the government must be authorized to abrogate all individual rights in the event of a threat to the security of the State.—Associated Press.

Japanese Hankow Crime Uncovered

HANKOW, OCT. 23.—THE CHARRED BODIES OF THREE AMERICAN AIRMEN HAVE BEEN RECOVERED HERE AND AT LEAST ONE WAS BURNED ALIVE, WITNESSES SAID.

THE SURVIVORS OF A B-29 CRASH 50 MILES NORTH OF HANKOW STREETS LAST DECEMBER 18, CLAD ONLY IN SHORT UNDERWEAR, AND WERE BEATEN, KICKED, REVILED AND TORTURED.

Reliable witnesses said the superintendent of the Japanese-sponsored "model youth corps," who wanted to be known as a strong taskmaster, inspired the death march.

Japanese gendarmes exhorted the crowd to beat them with sticks, spit on them and douse them with icy water.

Witnesses said a Japanese dressed as a Chinese civilian poked out one flier's eyes with a stick.

"Most of us looked briefly, then turned our heads, it was so barbarous," said a witness. The men were held in a school-house until late night, then were taken to the suburban crematorium. There, according to evidence in American intelligence officers' hands, they were doused with gasoline and set afire.

Gen. Nasaburo Okabe, the Japanese commander in the Hankow area, informed the American officers that his subordinates who were responsible "are not here now but I am trying to get in touch with them and they will be strictly dealt with."—Associated Press.

Surface Palestine

Tension in Palestine has eased and there is a feeling among both Jews and Arabs that they could reach some agreement "if they could be left alone," reports the London "Daily Herald."

Speaking of the "genuine distaste of the great majority of both Jews and Arabs for any trouble that would disturb the country's economic life," the correspondent says that he has just visited the Jewish collective settlement of Kiryat Anavim in the mountains of Judea.

"Overlooking it is an Arab village and the two exist in perfect fraternization with mutual visits, and the Arabs frequently consulting the Jewish medical officer."

Leading members of the Jewish settlement told him that they should resist if the police were to come there to search for arms, "but we look forward to the day when all arms will be in the possession of the Government."—Reuter.

JAPANESE REPARATIONS

Tokyo, Oct. 23.—An American reparations committee, including Owen Lattimore as adviser, is coming to Tokyo. They are to investigate what can be taken out of Japan while still leaving enough for Japanese economy without making it possible for Japan to make war again.—Associated Press.

J. H. MARSHMAN

Mr. J. H. Marshman, chairman of the board of Marshman (Hong Kong, China, Ltd.) and managing director of the extensive Marshman interests in the Philippines, is in San Francisco re-organizing the various interests which he controls.

He anticipates very large construction work in China and the Far East in general and already has a large number of contracts for construction work in the Philippines and in China.

U.S. ARMY PLANE CRASHES

Alaska, Oct. 23.—Between twenty-two and twenty-five persons were killed when an army transport-plane crashed in a swampy area and exploded. The plane was buffeted by a forty-mile wind as she attempted to land on her arrival from Cold Bay in the Aleutians.—Associated Press.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The United States will turn over to Belgium under license \$45,000,000 worth of surplus army goods needed for civilian use.—Associated Press.

Moscow On Mongolia Plebiscite

MOSCOW, OCT. 23.—EARLY RETURNS FROM THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLES' REPUBLIC SHOWED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, THE TASS NEWS AGENCY REPORTED.

The Outer Mongolians went to the polls on Saturday's plebiscite to determine whether the area will become independent or remain under Chinese suzerainty.

Tass reported that Ulaanbat, the capital city, voted 24,683 to nothing in favour of independence.

The Head of the Republic's Buddhist Church has proclaimed prayers of thanksgiving, whilst the people rejoice, dancing in the streets.—Associated Press.

GUSHING THANKS
Tass news agency, in a dispatch from Outer Mongolia, noted Premier Marshal Choi Bol San as stating: "Our most sincere and close friend, the Soviet Union, which constantly gives us uninterdicted aid in our cultural and economic development, and which respects our state's independence, is the first that recognized the right of our people for an independent existence."—Associated Press.

SAIGON SNIPING

Sniping still continues though the situation is improving. British and French troops are still combing the city for illegal possessors of arms.—Reuter.

German Air Raid Losses

London, Oct. 23.—About 250,000 German civilians were killed or missing in air raids between October 1940 and the end of January, 1945, according to German sources, Prime Minister Attlee reported in the House of Commons to-day.

A further 100,000 are believed to have been killed between February 1st and May 8th, 1945.

M.C.C. AGREE TO TESTS

London, Oct. 23.—The Marylebone Cricket Club are informing Australia that, subject to certain conditions, they will send a team to Australia in 1946-47 and would welcome Australia to England in 1948.—Reuter.

The M.C.C. statement read: "The M.C.C. are informing the Australian Board of Control of the Imperial Cricket Conference, they will be glad to go to Australia in 1946-47 if conditions permit and if satisfactory mutual arrangements on details can be made. Similarly, the M.C.C. will welcome a visit of the Australian team to England in 1948. The M.C.C. have been informed that all countries would welcome a visit from India in 1946 and are in communication with the Board of Control for cricket in India on the administrative problems to be faced."

To-day's decision by the M.C.C. to send a team to Australia at the end of next year will be very popular in Australia, says Vernon Morgan, Reuter's Sports Editor. It means that England has one Summer left to find a team and the proposed visit of the Indians should help considerably to collect the best talent available and wield them into a team.—Reuter.

C.R.C. MEETING

A fair number of Chinese Recreation Club members turned up for the meeting to discuss ways and means of reviving the Club's activities.

The clubhouse has been damaged but is still serviceable and the tennis courts will soon be ready for play. A telephone and other facilities are to be installed as quickly as possible. Mr. S. W. Liang, the Hon. Secretary, writing to the "China Mail" yesterday, said that the old No. 1 Boy, Ah Sheung, is still at the service of members, who are invited together with their friends.

DILAWARJI SCRATCHED

London, Oct. 22.—The Aga Khan's Dilawarji, one of the best backed Cambridgehire candidates, has been scratched. Champion jockey Gordon Richards is not without a mount. He may ride Dilawarji's stable counterpart, Sir Alfred Butt's Panzer-wagon. Dilawarji was recently used in his work—and his scratching was not unexpected.—Reuter.

New York, Oct. 23.—The weekly roll call of football teams placed the Army first. Notre Dame second, Navy third, Purdue fourth, Minnesota fifth, Alabama sixth, Pennsylvania seventh, Indiana eighth, Texas ninth and St. Mary's tenth.—Associated Press.

London, Oct. 23.—The Marylebone Cricket Club states that the English countries would welcome a visit of a team from India in 1946.—Reuter.

RADIO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 1945.

230V HONGKONG Broadcasting on Frequencies of 630 Kilocycles and from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m., 0.30 to 1.30 p.m. and 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. on 9.47 Megacycles.

H.K.T.

12.30 p.m.—Haydn—"Surprise" Symphony.

12.35 p.m.—Mozart Songs.

1.00 p.m.—News & Announcements.

1.10 p.m.—Rubinstein Playing Chopin.

1.30 p.m.—A Dance Programme.

9.00 p.m.—Close Down.

9.30 p.m.—Dance Music by Harry Roy & His Orchestra.

7.00 p.m.—News & Announcements.

7.10 p.m.—Light Orchestral Selections.

7.30 p.m.—Brahms Concerto No. 1 in D Minor.

8.19 p.m.—Tchaikovsky—"Casse No. 1" set of 8 songs.

8.42 p.m.—Targos & Wallace.

9.00 p.m.—News & Announcements.

9.10 p.m.—Dance & Variety.

10.00 p.m.—News from London.

10.05 p.m.—Haydn—"Farewell" Symphony.

10.30 p.m.—Close Down.

Printed and published for the Proprietors, The Newspaper Enterprise, Limited, by WALTER JAMES KEATON, Windsor House, Hong Kong.

G. P. O.
HONG KONG.
24th October, 1945.